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1896-07-06

Letter from John Muir to [Helen] & Annie] Wanda, 1896 Jul 6.

John Muir

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Sylvan Lake Hotel

F.B. COLES
MANAGER

CUSTER, S. D., July 6 1896

Hello Midge Hellow Wanda! My!! if You could only come here when I call You, how wonderful You would think this hollow in the Rocky Black Hills is. It is wonderful even to me after seeing so many wild mountains, Curious rocks rising alone or in clusters, gray & jagged & rounded. in the midst of a forest of pines & spruces & poplars & birches, with a little lake in the middle & carpet of meadow gay with flowers. It is in the heart of the famous Black Hills where the Indians & whites quarreled & fought so much. The Whites wanted the gold in the rocks, & the Indians wanted the game - the deer & elk that used to abound here. As a grand deer pasture this was said to have been the best in America, & no wonder the Indians wanted to keep it.

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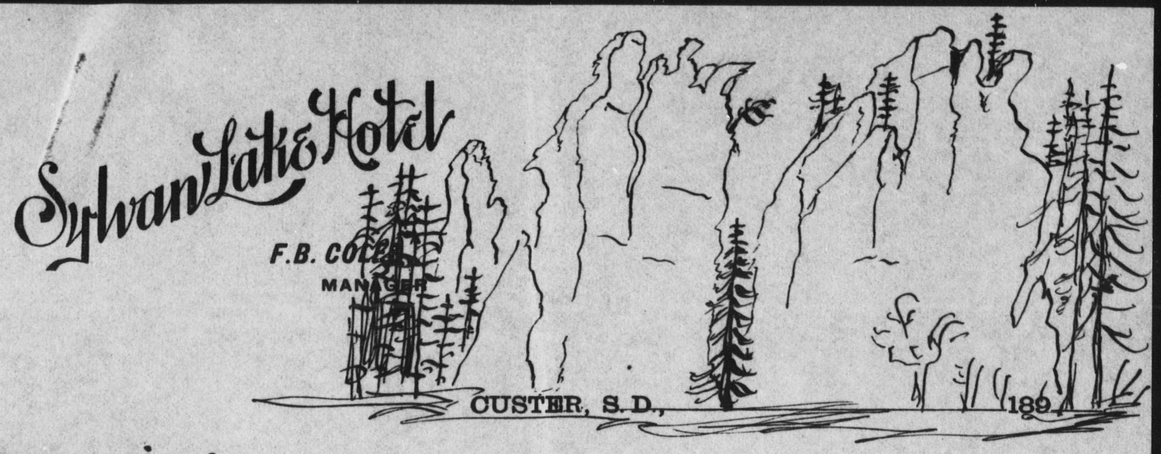

for wherever the White man goes the game vanishes.

We came here this forenoon from Hot Springs 50 miles by rail & 12 by wagon. And most of the way was through woods finely carpeted with beautiful flowers. A lovely red lily. Lilium Pennsylvanicum, was common 2 kinds of Spiraea and a beautiful wild rose in full bloom - Anemones, Calachortus, Larkspur etc etc etc far beyond time to tell. but I must not fail to mention Linnaea. How sweet the air is. I would like to stop a long time & have You & Mama with me. What walks we would have!! We leave tonight for Edgemont.

Here is some mica flakes & a bit of Spiraea I picked up in a walk with Prof Sargent.

Good bye my babes. Some time I must bring You here & see how You are will

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John Muir

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